In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A method for screening compounds for modulation of $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a host cell that has been transfected with an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule ~~constituting~~ comprising:

a promoter element selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 1,

(ii) a nucleic acid molecule at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1,

(iii) a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 2, and

(iv) a nucleic acid molecule at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2; and

a reporter gene, wherein the promoter element is coupled to the reporter gene so that expression of the reporter gene is under the control of the promoter element;

(b) contacting a test compound with the cell; and

(c) determining whether the test compound modulates the level of expression of the reporter gene, wherein modulation of reporter gene expression is indicative of the ability of the test compound to modulate $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the firefly luciferase gene;

(b) the bacterial chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (CAT) gene;

(c) the ß-galactosidase (ß-Gal) gene; and

(d) the green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the host cell endogenously expresses at least one $GABA_B$ receptor 1.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the host cell has further been transfected with an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding at least one specific transcription factor.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the specific transcription factor is selected from the group consisting of: CREB-1, CREB-2, CREM-1, ATF-1, ATF-2, ATF-3, ATF-4, Sp1, Sp2, Sp3, Sp4, AP-1 and AP-2.

37. (currently amended) A method for screening compounds for modulation of $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a host cell that has been transfected with an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule ~~constituting~~ comprising:

a promoter element ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising (1) a functionally equivalent modified variant of or (2) an active fragment of a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(i) the nucleic acid molecule defined as SEQ ID NO: 1, and

(ii) the nucleic acid molecule defined as SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein the functionally equivalent modified variant of (1) above is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 and the modification(s) yielding said variant is/are selected from the group consisting of substitutions, deletions, insertions, inversions and combinations thereof; and

a reporter gene, wherein the promoter element is coupled to the reporter gene so that expression of the reporter gene is under the control of the promoter element;

(b) contacting a test compound with the cell; and

(c) determining whether the test compound modulates the level of expression of the reporter gene, wherein modulation of reporter gene expression is indicative of the ability of the test compound to modulate $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the firefly luciferase gene;

(b) the bacterial chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (CAT) gene;

(c) the ß-galactosidase (ß-Gal) gene; and

(d) the green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the host cell endogenously expresses at least one $GABA_B$ receptor 1.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the host cell has further been transfected with an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding at least one specific transcription factor.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the specific transcription factor is selected from the group consisting of: CREB-1, CREB-2, CREM-1, ATF-1, ATF-2, ATF-3, ATF-4, Sp1, Sp2, Sp3, Sp4, AP-1 and AP-2.

42. (currently amended) A method for screening compounds for modulation of $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a host cell that has been transfected with an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule ~~constituting~~ comprising:

a promoter element ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising (1) a functionally equivalent modified variant of or (2) an active fragment of the nucleic acid molecule defined as SEQ ID NO: 1, the promoter element comprising:

(i) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 3009-3016 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(ii) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 3037-3044 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

(iii) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 3116-3123 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

and wherein the functionally equivalent modified variant of (1) above is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1 and the modification(s) yielding said variant is/are selected from the group consisting of substitutions, deletions, insertions, inversions and combinations thereof; and

a reporter gene, wherein the promoter element is coupled to the reporter gene so that expression of the reporter gene is under the control of the promoter element;

(b) contacting a test compound with the cell; and

(c) determining whether the test compound modulates the level of expression of the reporter gene, wherein modulation of reporter gene expression is indicative of the ability of the test compound to modulate $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription.

43. (previously presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the promoter element is not operably linked to a repressor region of a $GABA_B$ receptor 1 P1a promoter.

44. (currently amended) A method for screening compounds for modulation of $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a host cell that has been transfected with an expression system comprising a nucleic acid molecule ~~constituting~~ comprising:

a promoter element ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising (1) a functionally equivalent modified variant of or (2) an active fragment of the nucleic acid molecule defined as SEQ ID NO: 2, the promoter element comprising the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4308-4315 of SEQ ID NO: 2

and wherein the functionally equivalent modified variant of (1) above is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2 and the modification(s) yielding said variant is/are selected from the group consisting of substitutions, deletions, insertions, inversions and combinations thereof, and

a reporter gene, wherein the promoter element is coupled to the reporter gene so that expression of the reporter gene is under the control of the promoter element;

(b) contacting a test compound with the cell; and

(c) determining whether the test compound modulates the level of expression of the reporter gene, wherein modulation of reporter gene expression is indicative of the ability of the test compound to modulate $GABA_B$ receptor 1 transcription.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the promoter element further comprises:

(i) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4080-4087 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(ii) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4196-4204 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(iii) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4241-4249 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(iv) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4272-4279 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the promoter element is not operably linked to a repressor region of a $GABA_B$ receptor 1 P1b promoter.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein the promoter element further comprises:

(i) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4080-4087 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(ii) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4196-4204 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(iii) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4241-4249 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(iv) the nucleic acid sequence of positions 4272-4279 of SEQ ID NO: 2.